

## Bay Of Pigs Postscript

(Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch)

Well, now, here comes a VIP of the story of the Bay of Pigs.

By VIP we don't mean Very Important Person — though the gentleman speaking certainly is that. What we mean is Very Important Postscript.

The postscript had to do with the part the former administration — that Eisenhower group some people were happy to see out because of all the trouble given it by a fellow named Khrushchev — played in the worst psychological and propaganda defeat the U. S. has suffered in many a year, meaning the Cuban invasion that failed before it was really started.

President Kennedy took his medicine like a man. He never tried to blame anyone else, or to drag anyone else in to share the blame for the disaster. But the lower echelons of political power had an entirely different view of the invasion.

When it failed, the word went out that it had all been planned by Ike and his advisers and generals. Seems there was a plan that had gone so far the New Frontier couldn't back out of it. The word went out in whispers, in dropped hints to favored columnists and assorted view-pushers. The result was, of course, to ease the blow and make it appear that the invaders were caught in the toils of the past.

The result was also to put part of the blame on the White House doorstep when another occupant was there.

But now along comes that occupant, former President Eisenhower, and this is what he had to say about the plans for the Cuban invasion by Cuban refugees, abetted but certainly not aided enough by the U. S.:

"We (meaning the Eisenhower administration) had done nothing except to recognize that these Cuban refugees had a great desire to go back to Cuba, so we began organizing them and giving them weapons and training them. But beyond that we could not go, because at that time there was no recognized leader among the (refugee) Cubans."

So the former President says there weren't any invasion plans made by his administration.

And he added: "I was not a consultant or adviser to the (Kennedy) administration in any way, of course."

Of course. One doesn't have to be a military expert to suspect that a man who spent as many years as Eisenhower in the Army would balk at an invasion plan that sent 1,500 men ashore alone — no reserves, no supply lines, no air cover.

So far as his own knowledge of any invasion plans is concerned, we're glad to see General Eisenhower set the record straight.

There is only one other possibility that we can see to explain the existence, if any, of plans during 1960. And that is that the Central Intelligence Agency had them going, but that nobody knew much about it except Central Intelligence Agency. And if that was the case, it argues strongly for what we have argued for a long time: That both the White House and Congress must keep a close watch and tight rein on the C.I.A.